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India

Agricultural Situation

Monsoon Progress Report No. 4

2005

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Report Highlights:

The rainfall situation has consistently improved over the past three weeks, aiding planting conditions for the kharif (fall and early winter harvested) crops.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
New Delhi [IN1]
[IN]

During the week ending July 13, the monsoon was active in central and northern India, but was significantly below normal in Gujarat (earlier ravaged by floods), helping planting of peanut and cotton. Several of the major rice growing states (Bihar, Orissa, Karnataka, and Chattisgarh) received below-normal rains during the week (Figure 1).

There has been a consistent improvement in the rainfall situation over the past three weeks, with the number of weather subdivisions receiving below-normal cumulative rainfall shrinking to eight (mostly the rice growing areas of Tamil Nadu, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya, Bihar, East Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, and Marathwada) for the week ending July 13. This is down from 28 on June 22 (Figure 2). The all-India area-weighted rainfall from June 1 to July 13 was one percent above normal.

Progressive planting reports from states, compiled by the Ministry of Agriculture, show that planting of all crops, with the exception of sugarcane and jute, is lagging behind last year's level (Table 1). However, following excellent rains in recent weeks, planting is expected to gain momentum. Nonetheless, well-distributed rains during August and September are a precondition for a normal harvest of most *kharif* crops, which include mostly rice, coarse grains, pulses, peanut, soybeans, cotton, and sugarcane.

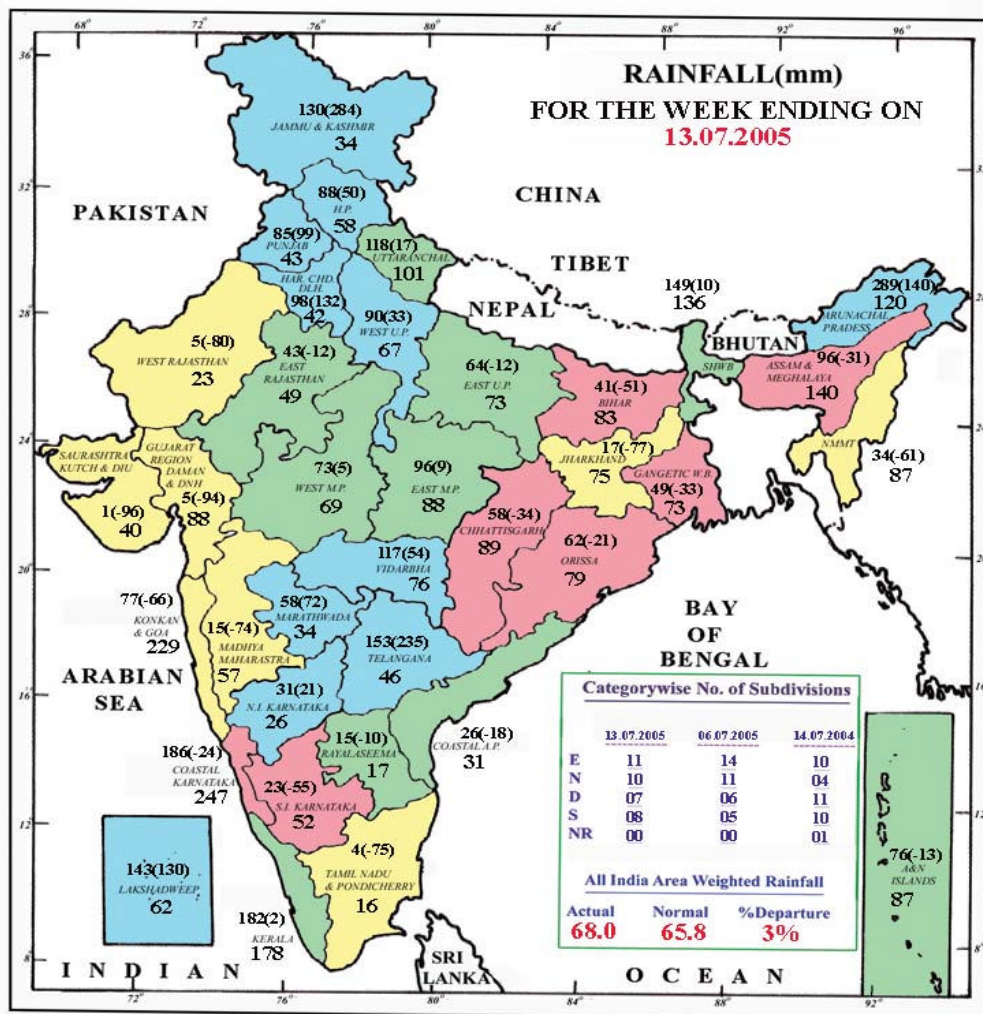
Table 1: Progressive Planting of Kharif crops (100,000 hectares)

Crop	Normal area	Area Coverage (as reported on July 11, 2005)		
		This Year	Last Year	Difference
Rice	399	54.85	67.27	-12.42
Cotton	87	31.53	45.91	-14.38
Coarse Cereals of which:	225	69.96	88.49	-18.53
Sorghum	47	12.12	15.10	-2.98
Millet	90	24.23	26.70	-2.47
Corn	58	29.03	41.39	-12.36
Sugarcane	43	41.29	37.47	+3.82
Jute	9	7.88	7.69	+0.19
Total Kharif Oilseeds of which:	152	43.26	74.85	-31.59
Peanut	56	16.04	28.68	-12.64
Soybeans	63	21.64	33.80	-12.16
Sunflower	5	1.80	4.46	-2.66
Sesame	16	2.96	6.67	-3.71
Niger	5	0.06	0.26	-0.20
Castor	8	0.75	0.98	-0.23
Total Kharif Pulses	102	11.95	27.45	-15.50

Source: Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (GOI)

Figure 1

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LEGEND :

 EXCESS (E) + 20% OR MORE	 NORMAL (N) +19% TO -19%	 DEFICIENT (D) -20% TO -59%
 SCANTY (S) -60% TO -99%	 NO RAIN (NR) -100%	* * NO DATA

NOTES:

(a) Rainfall figures are based on operational data.

(b) Small figures indicate actual rainfall (mm), while bold figures indicate normal rainfall (mm). Percentage departures of rainfall are shown in brackets.

Figure 2

